
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 7/21/2019

Psalm 13 by Taylor Sutton

Overview

The problem of suffering has caused many to doubt the existence of a loving and all-powerful God. Human suffering challenges belief in God in two distinct ways – philosophical and experiential. This message from Psalm 13 focuses on the latter and addresses the question, “Can I trust a God who would let something like this happen to me?” David, the author of this Psalm, shows us what to do when faced with suffering:

- 1) David brings his pain to God (v.1-2)
- 2) David pleads with God (v.3-4)
- 3) David renews his trust in God (v.5-6)

Quotations

“According to the secular view of modern Western culture, this material world is all there is. And so the meaning of life is to have the freedom to choose the life that makes you happy. However, in that view of things, suffering can have no meaningful part...This means that when facing unavoidable and irreducible suffering, secular people must smuggle in resources from other views of life, having recourse to ideas of karma, or Buddhism, or Greek Stoicism, or Christianity, even though their beliefs about the nature of the universe do not line up with those resources.” -Tim Keller

“In the dark hours of suffering, Christians want more than the assurance that their beliefs are consistent...That is not to say, however, that the set of beliefs is irrelevant. It is to say that, in addition to holding that Christian beliefs are true and consistent, the Christian, to find comfort in them, must learn how to *use* them.” -Don Carson

“The *known* facts are against God, but the known facts are not *all* the facts.” -Os Guinness

Understanding & Application

- 1) Jesus tells his followers that in this world we will face trials and suffer. As you look around your small group, take a moment to both hear from others how they are currently suffering and be willing to share of your trials with others.
- 2) When in your life have you felt as if God were abandoning you in your suffering? In those times, how did you relate to God?
- 3) We are all taking our pain somewhere looking for relief. Besides to the Lord, where are you most tempted to turn? What prevents you from taking it fully to the Lord?
- 4) What was it that renewed David in verses 5-6 of Psalm 13?
- 5) What does the prosperity gospel say about suffering? What Scripture texts refute it?